

PROPOSED USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS TO DESIGNATE  
A TYPE SPECIES FOR *POLYNOE* SAVIGNY, 1818 (ANNELIDA:  
POLYCHAETA). Z.N.(S.) 2288

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The generic name *Polynoe* was first published by Savigny (1818, p. 308), to include five new species and *Aphrodita squamata* Pallas, 1766.

2. Since 1818, all six originally included species have been removed to other genera (Hartman 1959):

SAVIGNY (1818) NAME	HARTMAN (1959) NAME
<i>Polynoe muricata</i>	<i>Iphione muricata</i> (Savigny, 1818)
<i>Polynoe squamata</i>	<i>Lepidonotus squamatus</i> (Linnaeus, 1767)
<i>Polynoe floccosa</i>	<i>Lagisca floccosa</i> (Savigny, 1818)
<i>Polynoe foliosa</i>	<i>Alentia gelatinosa</i> (Sars, 1835)
<i>Polynoe impatiens</i>	<i>Lepidonotus impatiens</i> (Savigny, 1818)
<i>Polynoe setosissima</i>	<i>Harmothoe setosissima</i> (Savigny, 1820)

3. In the above tabulation there are two mistakes of authorship, in that *L. squamatus* should be credited to (Linnaeus, 1758) and *H. setosissima* should be credited to Savigny, 1818, but these are not the point of the present application.

4. Savigny (1818) did not designate a type species, although he did split the genus into two groups, one consisting of *P. muricata* alone, the other containing the remaining five species.

5. The genus *Polynoe* was next mentioned in print by Savigny, 1822 (p. 20). This publication, although dated 1809, was published in 1822 according to Sherborn (1897) and the British Museum (Natural History) (1913), or in 1820 according to Hartman (1951). In either case this publication post-dates Savigny, 1818. Savigny also produced figures of his *P. muricata* and *P. impatiens* as part of this work, in a volume dated 1817, but as they are only described in this volume as polynoés this is not significant nomenclaturally. The precise description of Savigny's annelid plates is by Audouin, 1826.

6. Savigny, 1822, gives again the six species of Savigny, 1818, with the addition of the new species *Polynoe scolopendrina* Savigny, 1822 on page 25. On page 26 he says in a long foot-note "Je trouve dans les auteurs beaucoup de polynoé que je n'ai point vues en

nature et que je ne puis décrire ici. J'indiquerai de préférence les suivantes, qui toutes paraissent appartenir à cette seconde tribu:”. He then lists seven species, which have again been removed to other genera (Hartman, 1959).

SAVIGNY (1822) NAME	HARTMAN (1959) NAME
<i>Aphrodita clava</i> Montag.	<i>Lepidonotus clava</i> (Montagu, 1808)
<i>Aphrodita punctata</i> Müll.	<i>Lepidonotus squamatus</i> (Linnaeus, 1767)
<i>Aphrodita cirrosa</i> Pall.	<i>Gattyana cirrosa</i> (Pallas, 1766)
<i>Aphrodita cirrata</i> Oth. Fabr.	<i>Harmothoe imbricata</i> (Linnaeus, 1767)
<i>Aphrodita scabra</i> Oth. Fabr.	<i>Gattyana cirrosa</i> (Pallas, 1766)
<i>Aphrodita longa</i> Oth. Fabr.	<i>Pholoe minuta</i> (Fabricius, 1780)
<i>Aphrodita minuta</i> Oth. Fabr.	<i>Pholoe minuta</i> (Fabricius, 1780)

7. There are again several mistakes in this tabulation. *L. squamatus* should be credited to (Linnaeus, 1758). *A. cirrata* was erected by Müller, 1776. Fabricius (1780, p. 313) says that *A. longa* was erected by Müller, 1776, but Müller (1776, p. 218) seems to say that the name came from Fabricius. Again, however, these are not the point of the present application.

8. Hartman (1959, p. 98) gives the type species of the genus *Polynoe* as *P. scolopendrina* Savigny, 1820, perhaps following Bergström (1916, p. 274). This is clearly contra to article 67 h of the Code: “A nominal species that was not included, or that was cited as a species inquirenda or a species incertae sedis when a new nominal genus was established, cannot be validly designated or indicated as the type species of that genus”. This ‘designation’ has, however, been accepted by Day (1967, p. 55) and Fauchald (1977, p. 64).

9. Rigidly applying Article 69 would mean that one of the six species given by Savigny, 1818, must be the type species of the genus *Polynoe*. The first applicable part of Recommendation 69 is 69B (3) (choice by elimination), which points to *P. floccosa* or *P. foliosa* as the type species (*Lepidonotus* was erected by Leach, 1816, *Harmothoe* and *Iphione* by Kinberg, 1855, and *Lagisca* and *Alentia* by Malmgren, 1865).

10. *P. floccosa* has been placed in the genus *Lagisca* Malmgren, 1865. This is a very well known genus among polychaete workers, containing 24 species (*vide* Fauchald, 1977), and to change its name would cause confusion amongst taxonomists and ecologists alike.

11. *P. foliosa* has been synonymised with *P. gelatinosa* Sars,

1835 (Hartman, 1959), which is the type species of *Alentia* Malmgren, 1865. *P. foliosa* predates *P. gelatinosa*, and therefore has priority over it for the purposes of synonymy, and so becomes the valid name for the type species of *Alentia*. The genus *Alentia* contains 3 species (*vide* Fauchald, 1977), and changing its name would probably not be too confusing for taxonomists or ecologists. However, under the Code, the genus *Polynoe* as it is currently used and understood would have to have a new name. The genus comprises *scolopendrina* and 16 other species (*vide* Fauchald, 1977), some of which are very well known and commonly found in ecological surveys throughout the world. It also provides the root of the family-group name POLYNOIDAE Malmgren, 1867. Changing the name of this genus of polychaete worms, and applying the name *Polynoe* to a different genus, would cause great confusion among taxonomists, systematists and marine biologists.

12. I therefore ask the Commission:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to set aside all designations of type species hitherto made for *Polynoe* Savigny, 1818, and to designate *Polynoe scolopendrina* Savigny, 1822, as the type species of that genus;
- (2) to place the generic name *Polynoe* Savigny, 1818 (gender: feminine), type species, by designation under the plenary powers in (1), *Polynoe scolopendrina* Savigny, 1822, on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology;
- (3) to place the specific name *scolopendrina* Savigny, 1822 (specific name of type species of *Polynoe* Savigny, 1818) on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

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*Groenlandiae occidentalis hactenus indagata, quoad nomen specificum, triviale, vernaculumque; synonyma auctorum plurium, descriptionem, locum, victum, generationem, mores, usum, capturamque singuli; prout detegendi occasio fuit, maximaque parti secundum proprias observationes.* Hafniae et Lipsiae. 452p.

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